

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1121

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0154

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS OREP (DIGGS CHARLES C.)

SUBJECT CODEL DIGGS

REF STATE 7850

HEREWITH TEXT USINFO (PRETORIA 4384) SENT DECEMBER Q 1, 1973 AND

REQUESTED BY REFTEL:

QTE UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS HAS SAID THAT "SOUTH
AFRICA IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE ISLATED FROM THE REST OF THE
WORLD AS A PRICE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM."
ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM A GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSMAN DURING
A TRANSIT STOP IN JOHANNESBURG THIS AFTERNOON EN ROUTE TO A
CONFERENCE IN ADDIS ABABA BEGINNING DECEMBER 3 BETWEEN PROMINENT
AMERICANS AND AFRICANS ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE AFRICAN SUB-COMMITTEE SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT HOW LONG
THE OIL EMBARGO ANNOUNCED RECENTLY AT THE ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS
WOUL LAST BUT HE ADDED 'I THINK THE LESSON THAT IT TEACHES IS
THAT OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IS GOING TO COME IN A MORE
DIVERSIFIED FASHION FROM MORE DIVERSIFIED SOURCES. I THINK
THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED IS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS BECOMING MORE
AND MORE ISLOATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AS A PRICE FOR
THE MAINTENANCE OF THE APARTHIED SYSTEM... I THINK THAT EVERY
EFFORT SHOULD BE EXERTED THAT MAY HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON SOUTH
AFRICAN POLICY. I THINK THAT THERE IS NO MORE FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHT IN THE WORLD THAN THE RIGHTS OF MAN, THE RIGHT OF A PERSON
FOR EQUALITY AND DIGNITY...'

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COMMENTING ON SOUTH AFRICA THE CONGRESSMAN OBSERVED 'DESPITE

CERTAIN ATTITUDIONAL CHANGES AND GESTURESS HERE AND THERE, THERE HAS BEEN NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AS IT RELAES TO THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY. THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY HAVE DETERIORATED, THAT THE BANNINGS ARE MORE FREQUENT THAN THEY WERE WHEN I WAS HERE BEFORE, THAT ARRESTS FOR SO-CALLED PASS VIOLATIONS ARE AS FREQUENT OR MORE FREQUENT THAN THEY WERE BEFORE, THAT THE THREATS AGAINST FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COULD HAVE AN IMPACT AT LEAST ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OF LIBERATING THE MAJORITY IN THIS COUNTRY' RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE ENERGY CRISIS IN GENERAL, THE MICHINGA CONGRESSMAN SAID'I AM NOT SURPRISED THAT THE ARABS HAVE FOURN THEY HAVE A VERY EFFECTIVE WEAPON IN THEIR OIL RESOURCES TO HELP INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY AS IT RELATES TO THEIR INTEREST. I THINK THAT IN THE ALGIERS MANIFESTO AND THE DAU MANIFESTO ON THE WHOLE ENERTY CRISIS LIES THE HOOKUP BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE AFRICANS...ALSO I THINK THE GROWING SOPHISTICATION OF THE AFRICANS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THIS CONTINENT TOGETHER WITH THE KIND OF RESOURCES THAT THE ARABS HAVE MEANS THAT WE HAVE A NEW ALLIANCE HERE WHICH HAS GOT TO COMMAND THE RESPECT OF ANY CIVILIZED COUNTRY, ANY INTELLIGENT EVALUATORS OF INTERNATIONAL TRENDS, AND I THINK IT REPRESENTS A FORCE THAT IS GOING TO IMPACT CONSIDERABLY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.'

MORE BROADLY ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THE CONGRESSMAN OBSERVED'NOW THAT THE PRINCIALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT HAVE AGREED TO SIT DOWN TO THE TABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS LONG SERIES OF CONFLICTS WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS MATTER MAY BE ADJUDICATED MUCH FASTER THAN ONE MIGHT HAVE ANTICIPATED. I THINK THAT THERE IS A SINCERE DESIREE ON BOTH SIDES TO TRY AND SETTLE THIS MATTER.'

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN SUGAR QUOTA LEGISLATION THE CONGRESSMAN SAID'I AM VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN TRYING TO SECURE AS LARGE A SHARE OF THE SUGAR QUOTA FOR THOSE THAT I BELIEVE FIR THE CRITERIA. I DONOT BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS A DEVELOPING NAION WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSER TO THE CRITERIA FOR THIS TYPE OF SUPPORT AND I AM MORE CONCERNED IN CONCENTRATING IN A POSITIVE SENSE ON GETTING AN INCREASE IN THE QUOTA FOR SWAZILAND FOR EXAMPLE...' ANSWERING QUESTIONS CONCERNING VISITS TO SOUTH AFRCA BY BLACK AMERICAN SPORTSMEN, AM INTEREST WHICH HAS BEEN HIGHLY STIMULATED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE RECENT VISIT OF TENNIS STAR ARTHUR ASHE AND THE TITLE FIGHT IN JOHANNESBURG TONIGHT BY AMERICAN LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION BOB FOSTER AND SOUTH AFRICAN CONTENDER PIERRE FOURIE, CHAIRMAN DIGGS SAID'I TAKE THIS KIND OF VIEW, IF A BLACK SPORTSMAN FEELS THAT HE WANTS TO COME, HE CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT COME HERE WITHOUT CERTAIN KINDS OF CONDITIONS. THE FIRST BEING THAT HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY KIND OF ACTIVITY, ANY DIND OF EXHIBITION TO WHICH ALL PEOPLE ARE NOT ADMITTED ON AN EQUAL

BASIS WITHOUT ANY KIND OF RESTRICTIONS OR QUOTAS...I THINK THAT
NO BLACK ATHLETE, IF HE FEELS OBLIGED TO COME, SHOUL COME
WITHOUT COMMUNICATION WITH THE MAJORITY WHILE HE IS HERE
BECAUSE THE MAJORITY CAN DRAW SOME MEASURE OF INSPIRATION FROM
SEEING THESE SUCCESS MODELS IN THIER OWN COMMUNITY... THE THIRD
CONDITION BEING TO EARMAK...PART OF HIS COMPEN-
SATION TO
SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE FOR THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY, SOMETHING
FOR A SCHLOARSHIP FUND OR SOMETHING THAT WOULD HEP ADVANCE
THE FORTUNES OF THE DISADVANTAGED MEMBERS OF THEIR GROUP...'.

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